

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A spindle, comprising:

a shaft;

a sleeve coaxial with the shaft;

a first gap formed between the sleeve and the shaft for facilitating rotation therebetween;

a hub bound to the sleeve;

a second gap located between the hub and the sleeve, the second gap being larger than the first gap; wherein

the hub is secured to a rotor magnet which is adjacent to a stator, such that the second gap reduces magnetic flux leakage into the sleeve and a substantially negligible amount of flux crosses the first gap into the shaft; and wherein the second gap is filled with epoxy.

6. (currently amended) A spindle, comprising:

a shaft;

a sleeve coaxial with the shaft;

a first gap formed between the sleeve and the shaft for facilitating rotation therebetween;

a hub bound to the sleeve;

a second gap located between the hub and the sleeve, the second gap being larger than the first gap; wherein

the hub is secured to a rotor magnet which is adjacent to a stator, such that the second gap reduces magnetic flux leakage into the sleeve and a substantially negligible amount of flux crosses the first gap into the shaft; and wherein

the second gap is in the range of 200 to 300 microns.

7. (previously presented) A precision spindle assembly, comprising in combination:

a stator;

a spindle hub having a rotor magnet mounted thereto that is rotatable relative to the stator; wherein the spindle hub comprises: